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April 30, 2021

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state, and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

Last Friday, I was driving under the influence of alcohol and involved in an automobile accident in Montgomery County. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. This incident served as a wake-up call for me, and I entered a treatment facility the following day. I completed the first step of my treatment this morning and I am back at the Capitol. I will continue my treatment in Austin while resuming my duties at the Legislature. I would like to thank everyone in our District and around the state who sent me kind words of encouragement; I appreciate all the support. While I was out, our amazing team continued to function as usual at the office. Below is a summary of some of the legislative highlights from this week.

Tomorrow is election day in Harris County. Saturday, May 1, is Election Day for most voters throughout the county. Voters can cast their ballots between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. at any of 102 voting centers.

On Wednesday, state leaders announced the release of \$11.2 billion in new federal funds to help public schools address student learning loss and costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These one-time funds are intended to support a comprehensive learning recovery effort in Texas over the next three years.

As a reminder, the Department of State Health Services has lifted the pause on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please schedule an appointment at your earliest convenience.

Click **here** to register for your shot with DSHS.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



May 2021 Calendar

Download my May 2021 calendar by clicking the image on the right. This month is full of events that could be fun or useful to you and your family! This new format allows you to save the document for printing or sending to your family members.

Keep watch for these updated calendars at the beginning of each month. Important local and legislative dates and events will be posted here.



87th Legislative Session

Message From The Speaker



Bill Spotlight: HB 3707 & 3985

<u>HB 3707</u> - Relating to the creation of a commission to recommend improvements to funding for special education in public schools.

HB 3707 creates the Texas Commission on Special Education Funding. The Commission will determine the nature and needs of the special education student population in Texas, and it will subsequently offer recommendations for improving the efficacy of funding for special education in public schools.

<u>HB 3985</u> - Relating to the offense of providing an alcoholic beverage to a minor; increasing a criminal penalty.

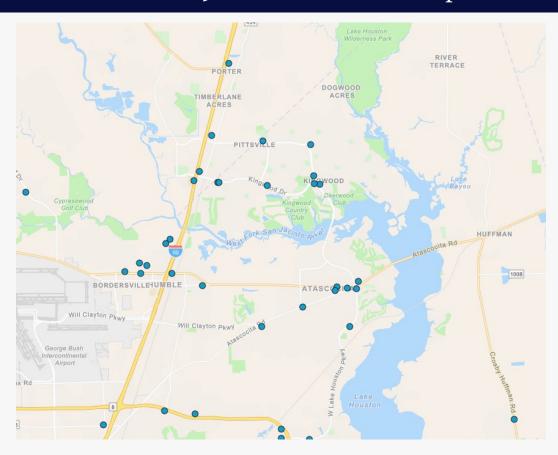
HB 3985 makes it a third-degree felony for someone to supply alcohol to a minor who then dies from consumption of that alcohol.

Bill Status Hotline

The Legislative Reference Library introduced a bill status hotline: 877-824-7038 (toll-free in Texas)

State Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Map



Click the image to view an interactive map

If you would like to register for a COVID-19 vaccine, please click here.

Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan Announce \$11.2 Billion In New Funding For Texas Public Schools



Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan...

Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dade Phelan today announced the release of \$11.2 billion in new federal funds to help public schools address student learning loss and costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19...

Texas Lifts Pause on Johnson & Johnson Vaccine



Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Lifts Pause on Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

The Texas Department of State Health Services has notified vaccine providers in the state that they should resume using the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. The announcement comes after a thorough safety review and a Centers for Disease...

Read more dshs.texas.gov

TXDOT Calls For Safer Driving As Work Zone Traffic Deaths Rise During Pandemic



TxDOT Calls for Safer Driving as Work Zone Traffic...

AUSTIN - Even with less traffic during the pandemic, Texas work zone fatalities increased 9% in 2020 compared to 2019. That's why TxDOT is calling on drivers to make safety their number one priority at all times and especially when passing...

Read more www.txdot.gov

2020 Census Apportionment Data Released



2020 Census Apportionment Results Delivered to the President

APRIL 26, 2021 - The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the 2020 Census shows the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2020, was 331,449,281. The U.S. resident population represents the total number of people living in the 50 ...

Read more

www.census.gov

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



District 127 Updates

Election Day Tomorrow

Tomorrow, Saturday, May 1, is Election Day for voters in eligible areas of the county. **Voters can cast their ballot anytime between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.** at any of the 102 voting centers throughout Harris County.

Voters wishing to return a mail ballot can do so during voting hours at 1001 Preston, Houston, Texas, 77002.

For the nearest voting location and estimated wait times, go to <u>HarrisVotes.com/locations</u>.

A total of 18,612 voters cast their ballot during the Early Voting period that concluded on Tuesday, April 27th.

Gates Open at Lake Houston Spillway

Due to the forecasting of more than 3 inches of rain coming to the Houston area, and more specifically, the Lake Houston watershed, in the next 24 hours, Houston Public Works lowered Lake Houston this morning by 12 inches (from 42.5 feet to 41.5 feet).

Property owners along the lake should secure property along the shoreline. To monitor current water levels at Lake Houston, click <u>here</u>.



Humble BizCom On May 6



Humble BizCom Presented By Memorial Hermann Northeast &...

The Humble BizCom meeting will feature a blend of businesses, community members and school officials coming together to address specific needs and issues of the Humble community. Area citizens, community organizations, businesses and other...

Read more web.lakehouston.org

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